

Commissioners:

I object to ADiCorp's proposal for an "Emergency Vehicle Signaling Service" for these reasons:

First, this proposal is based on insufficient evidence of either need or effectiveness. Petitioner says 101 people riding in other vehicles died as a result of collisions with emergency vehicles in 2000 and 2001. There is no indication which vehicle was at fault in these collisions. If, for example, the emergency vehicle was being driven recklessly, the other driver may not have been able to avoid a collision under any circumstances. There is no indication whether the emergency vehicles in these collisions were using existing devices to warn nearby vehicles. There is no indication whether the other drivers were even listening to their radios.

Second, if the radio is on, an audible beeping sound suddenly appearing on a radio speaker may or may not alert a driver in time to avoid a collision. Recognition of the sound could take several seconds, more than sufficient time for a collision to occur.

Third, as a radio listener, I strongly object to having an emergency vehicle operator interrupt my listening based on such flimsy reasoning. I live near a volunteer fire department and may expect to have my home radio listening regularly interrupted for no good reason, not to mention hearing annoying and useless beeps if I happen to be parked near a passing emergency vehicle.

The solution to the problem identified by the petitioner lies in more prudent driving and operation of vehicle radios, rather than in use of an unjustified, unproven, and invasive bit of technology. The real solution already exists on most emergency vehicles: very high volume horns and sirens that can alert any driver near enough to be in danger of collision.

I respectfully urge the Commission to deny this petition.

Fred Marino